

REGION 10 ANNOTATED VERSION -- JUNE 12, 2000
DOCUMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR DETERMINATION

Interim Final 2/5/99

RCRA Corrective Action
Environmental Indicator (EI) RCRIS code (CA725)

Current Human Exposures Under Control

Facility Name: Alaska Railroad Corporation
Facility Address: 419 E. 1st Avenue, Anchorage, AK
Facility EPA ID #: AKD 98176
7403

1. Has **all** available relevant/significant information on known and reasonably suspected releases to soil, groundwater, surface water/sediments, and air, subject to RCRA Corrective Action (e.g., from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU), Regulated Units (RU), and Areas of Concern (AOC)), been **considered** in this EI determination?

_____ If yes - check here and continue with #2 below.

_____ If no - re-evaluate existing data, or

___**IN**___ if data are not available skip to #6 and enter "IN" (more information needed) status code.

EI determinations are intended to be a "snapshot" of current site conditions, and should NOT require additional data to be gathered at the time an EI determination is made. Even if available data are clearly insufficient to determine the nature and extent of contamination or whether cleanup standards are met, it is perfectly acceptable to check "yes" for question #1 as long as whatever data currently available has been considered. When data currently available are considered but are insufficient for EI determinations, such a conclusion should be indicated in question 3 for pathways and question 4 for exposures.

Note: Even though only currently available data should be used for EI determinations, the process of making EI determinations may well identify data gaps that need to be filled through the corrective action process.

BACKGROUND

Definition of Environmental Indicators (for the RCRA Corrective Action)

Environmental Indicators (EI) are measures being used by the RCRA Corrective Action program to go beyond programmatic activity measures (e.g., reports received and approved, etc.) to track changes in the quality of the environment. The two EI developed to-date indicate the quality of the environment in relation to current human exposures to contamination and the migration of contaminated groundwater. An EI for non-human (ecological) receptors is intended to be developed in the future.

Definition of "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI

A positive "Current Human Exposures Under Control" EI determination ("YE" status code) indicates that there are no "unacceptable" human exposures to "contamination" (i.e., contaminants in concentrations in excess of appropriate risk-based levels) that can be reasonably expected under current land- and groundwater-use conditions (for all "contamination" subject to RCRA corrective action at or from the identified facility (i.e., site-wide)).

Relationship of EI to Final Remedies

While Final remedies remain the long-term objective of the RCRA Corrective Action program the EI are near-term objectives which are currently being used as Program measures for the Government Performance and Results

Act of 1993, GPRA). The “Current Human Exposures Under Control” EI are for reasonably expected human exposures

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under current land- and groundwater-use conditions ONLY, and do not consider potential future land- or groundwater-use conditions or ecological receptors. The RCRA Corrective Action program’s overall mission to protect human health and the environment requires that Final remedies address these issues (i.e., potential future human exposure scenarios, future land and groundwater uses, and ecological receptors).

Duration / Applicability of EI Determinations

EI Determinations status codes should remain in RCRIS national database ONLY as long as they remain true (i.e., RCRIS status codes must be changed when the regulatory authorities become aware of contrary information).

2. Are groundwater, soil, surface water, sediments, or air **media** known or reasonably suspected to be **“contaminated”**¹ above appropriately protective risk-based “levels” (applicable promulgated standards, as well as other appropriate standards, guidelines, guidance, or criteria) from releases subject to RCRA Corrective Action (from SWMUs, RUs or AOCs)?

In many cases, available sampling and analytical data will be insufficient to fully document whether or not contaminant levels in the various media are above or below appropriate risk-based levels. For purposes of making EI determinations, it is entirely appropriate to use sound professional judgement as to whether particular media are or are not contaminated. For example, at a site with metal contamination in groundwater, professional judgement could easily be used to determine that no air (indoor or outdoor) contamination had occurred. This is particularly important when a phased approach is used for site characterization or corrective action - if characterization of a particular portion of a site has been deferred under a phased approach on the basis that that area is not believed to be contaminated and this belief is reasonably supported by an analysis of historical activities, process knowledge or other information, then it is quite reasonable to conclude that media in that area are not “contaminated” as part of a site-wide EI determination. Should data contradicting the initial phased-investigation presumption be gathered later in the site characterization process, it can easily be reflected in an updated EI determination. Deferral of a particular area as being low priority but still or likely to be contaminated should be reflected by a “no” or “in” EI.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>Rationale / Key Contaminants</u>
Groundwater	___	___	___	
Air (indoors) ²	___	___	___	
Surface Soil (e.g., <2 ft)	___	___	___	
Surface Water	___	___	___	
Sediment	___	___	___	
Subsurf. Soil (e.g., >2 ft)	___	___	___	
Air (outdoors)	___	___	___	

Footnotes:

¹ “Contamination” and “contaminated” describes media containing contaminants (in any form, NAPL and/or dissolved, vapors, or solids, that are subject to RCRA) in concentrations in excess of appropriately protective risk-based “levels” (for the media, that identify risks within the acceptable risk range).

² Recent evidence (from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, and others) suggest that unacceptable indoor air concentrations are more common in structures above groundwater with volatile contaminants than previously believed. This is a rapidly developing field and reviewers are encouraged to look to the latest guidance for the appropriate methods and scale of demonstration necessary to be reasonably certain that indoor air (in structures located above (and adjacent to) groundwater with volatile contaminants) does not present unacceptable risks.

3. Are there **complete pathways** between “contamination” and human receptors such that exposures can be reasonably expected under the current (land- and groundwater-use) conditions?

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Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table

Potential **Human Receptors** (Under Current Conditions)

<u>“Contaminated” Media</u>	Residents	Workers	Day-Care	Construction	Trespassers	Recreation	Food ³
Groundwater	---	---	---	---			---
Air (indoors)	---	---	---				
Soil (surface, e.g., <2 ft)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Surface Water	---	---			---	---	---
Sediment	---	---			---	---	---
Soil (subsurface e.g., >2 ft)				---			---
Air (outdoors)	---	---	---	---	---		

For sediments (if not other media like surface or groundwater), exposure should consider the potential for subsistence food source exposures, in addition to traditional exposure routes such as direct contact or direct ingestion.

Instructions for Summary Exposure Pathway Evaluation Table:

1. Strike-out specific Media including Human Receptors' spaces for Media which are not "contaminated") as identified in #2 above.

2. enter "yes" or "no" for potential "completeness" under each "Contaminated" Media -- Human Receptor combination (Pathway).

Note: In order to focus the evaluation to the most probable combinations some potential "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combinations (Pathways) do not have check spaces ("___"). While these combinations may not be probable in most situations they may be possible in some settings and should be added as necessary.

_____ If no (pathways are not complete for any contaminated media-receptor combination) - skip to #6, and enter "YE" status code, after explaining and/or referencing condition(s) in-place, whether natural or man-made, preventing a complete exposure pathway from each contaminated medium (e.g., use optional Pathway Evaluation Work Sheet to analyze major pathways).

Semantic Alert: In this instance, saying "NO" complete pathways exist translates to a "YE" environmental indicator. Go figure.

_____ If yes (pathways are complete for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combination) - continue after providing supporting explanation.

_____ If unknown (for any "Contaminated" Media - Human Receptor combination) - skip to #6 and enter "IN" status code

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Rationale and
Reference(s): _____

³ Indirect Pathway/Receptor (e.g., vegetables, fruits, crops, meat and dairy products, fish, shellfish, etc.)

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In general, EI's (if not cleanup standards themselves) can be met through a combination of reduction of contaminant concentrations (assuming that concentrations have been unacceptable) and (physical) engineering or institutional controls that interrupt an exposure pathway. For purposes of EI determinations, however, institutional or engineering controls do not need to have the sophistication, permanence, or legal defensibility as would be necessary for a final corrective action remedy. Rather, they need to be functional and reasonable - should the controls later be found to be no longer effective, the finding can easily be reflected in an updated EI determination.

An example might be the existence of off-site groundwater contamination that might pose risks to

ether the identified exposures are "significant" (i.e., potentially "unacceptable") consult a human health Risk Assessment specialist with appropriate education, training and experience.

5 Can the “significant” **exposures** (identified in #4) be shown to be within **acceptable** limits?

_____ If yes (all “significant” exposures have been shown to be within acceptable limits) -

The response to this question should include a brief description of the analysis and assumptions used in arriving at whatever conclusion is reached. The description does not have to be particularly detailed, but it should allow the reader to gain a basic understanding of the reasoning employed by the decision-

continue and enter “YE” after summarizing and referencing documentation justifying why all “significant” exposures to “contamination” are within acceptable limits (e.g., a site-specific Human Health Risk Assessment).

_____ If no (there are current exposures that can be reasonably expected to be “unacceptable”)- continue and enter “NO” status code after providing a description of each potentially “unacceptable” exposure.

_____ If unknown (for any potentially “unacceptable” exposure) - continue and enter “IN” status code

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6. Check the appropriate RCRIS status codes for the Current Human Exposures Under Control EI event code (CA725), and obtain Supervisor (or appropriate Manager) signature and date on the EI determination below (and attach appropriate supporting documentation as well as a map of the facility):

_____ YE - Yes, "Current Human Exposures Under Control" has been verified. Based on a review of the information contained in this EI Determination, "Current Human Exposures" are expected to be "Under Control" at the _____ facility, EPA ID # _____, located at _____ under current and reasonably expected conditions. This determination will be re-evaluated when the Agency/State becomes aware of significant changes at the facility.

_____ NO - "Current Human Exposures" are NOT "Under Control."

_____ IN IN - More information is needed to make a determination.

Completed by (signature) _____ Date 4/17/01
(print) Diane Richardson
(title) EPS

Supervisor (signature) _____ Date 4/17/01
(print) Jamie Sikorski
(title) Mgr., RCRA Compliance Unit
(EPA Region 10)

Locations where References may be found:

RFA on ARRC operated land done March 1996 identified 73 SWMUs and 7 AOCs.
Brownfield report for old Chugach Electric site stated further investigation necessary.
ADEC '97 GW data showed: vinyl chloride (21 ppb), ethylbenzene (950 ppb), naphthalene
(480 ppb), acetone (1200 ppb), benzene (780 ppb), toluene (170 ppb), total xylenes (5200
ppb).
1,2,4-trimethylbenzene (2400 ppb), 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (840 ppb), n-propylbenzene (310
ppb).
RFA currently being performed on leased properties.

Contact telephone and e-mail numbers

(name) Diane Richardson
(phone #) (907)271-6329
(e-mail) richardson.diane@epa.gov

FINAL NOTE: THE HUMAN EXPOSURES EI IS A QUALITATIVE SCREENING OF EXPOSURES AND THE

DETERMINATIONS WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD NOT BE USED AS THE SOLE BASIS FOR RESTRICTING THE SCOPE OF MORE DETAILED (E.G., SITE-SPECIFIC) ASSESSMENTS OF RISK.